

August 2004 Issue 1

ACTA UPDATES AND NEWS:

Welcome to the first ACTA Newsletter! Since we only meet 4 times per year and a lot of things happen between meeting times, I decided to put together this electronic newsletter to keep you posted on ACTA related topics.

This issue will cover the following topics:

- ACTA Report 2003
- Asthma Rap Contest
- Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk
- New Resource: "Is the Asthma Action Plan working?"
- ACTA submits 2 abstracts to the International Conference on Urban Health
- ACTA is growing: new members join ACTA
- Don't forget: Next ACTA meeting is 9/13/04 at 12:00 Noon

ACTA Report 2003

The long awaited ACTA Report 2003 is now available at http://www.hartford.gov/health/ACTA_Report_2003.pdf. If you have any difficulties opening the file, please contact me and I will arrange for a hard copy to be mailed to you.

Asthma Rap Contest

One of the public awareness initiatives this year is geared toward bringing attention about asthma signs and symptoms to youth ages 13- 18. Joe Young, a local and very talented graphic artist, is working on an animated public service announcement that needs a musical bed. The contest invites youth to attend a brief orientation session and then submit a 60 second rap with an asthma theme. For more information click the links below.

[City of Hartford Dept. of Health and Human Services Announces Youth](#)

Asthma Rap Contest

[Press Release](#)

[Registration Form](#)

Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk

The American Lung Association of Connecticut is sponsoring the Second Annual Asthma Walk. ACTA has formed a team and we hope that you join us on Saturday, October 2, 2004 at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain. Please register online to be part of the Hartford Asthma Call to Action Team. Bring your family, friends and help us spread the work. Thanks.

Click on <http://www.mrsnv.com/evt/home.jsp?id=393> to sign up.

or go to <http://www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=dvLUK900E&b=39074> for more information.

New resource: "Is the asthma action plan working?"

The National Asthma Education and Prevention School Subcommittee has completed the development of a new product, "Is the asthma action plan working? A tool for school nurse assessment". This brief assessment tool offers guidance to school nurses in determining how well an asthma action plan is working for a student. It includes information about good asthma control and a checklist of assessment items. Asthma educators, primary care providers and asthma specialists can also use this tool.

Take a look at www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/asthma/asth_act_plan_frm.htm

ACTA submitted 2 abstracts to the International Conference on Urban Health to be held in Boston in October 2004.

One abstract is based on the evaluation of the school project dealing with the training of the school nurses and use of asthma action plans. The second is about how ACTA works as a coalition to address the asthma situation in Hartford. If the abstracts are selected ACTA members will have an opportunity to vote to send a representative to this conference. Copies of both abstracts will be available at the next ACTA meeting on 9/13/04.

We are pleased to announce that Kathleen McKay, Ph.D, Director of the Child Health Data Center of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Yolanda Cruz from Building Parent Power, have accepted Rita Kornblum's invitation to join ACTA. Dr. McKay has also joined the ACTA Data sub-committee. We can officially welcome them as a group on 9/13/04.

If you have any suggestions or contributions for future newsletters, please contact Rita.

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